

CHAPTER 8

Hazard Mitigation

8-1. Implementation. See paragraphs 8-1 and 8-2, ER 500-1-1 for pertinent policy.

8-2. Background.

a. Objective. The primary objective of hazard mitigation is to reduce or avoid Federal expenditures resulting from flood situations through a coordinated interagency and intergovernmental team approach that develops flood hazard mitigation recommendations.

b. Interagency Agreement. The Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum on 10 July 1980, which directed 12 Federal departments and agencies to cooperate in the establishment of regional Hazard Mitigation Teams (HMT's). The primary purpose of HMT's is to prepare Hazard Mitigation Reports within 15 days of Presidentially declared flood disasters. FEMA coordinates the 12 Federal departments and agencies in the development of an interagency agreement that establishes common policy and guidelines to implement the hazard mitigation program. The result is the "Interagency Agreement for Non-Structural Flood Damage Reduction Measures as Applied to Common Flood Disaster Planning and Post Flood Recovery Practices." The agreement was signed by the following departments and agencies:

- (1) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- (2) Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- (3) Department of the Army (DA) (Redelegated to USACE).
- (4) Department of Commerce (DOC).
- (5) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- (6) Department of Education (DE).
- (7) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- (8) Department of Interior (DOI).
- (9) Department of Transportation (DOT).
- (10) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

(11) Small Business Administration (SBA).

(12) Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

8-3. HMT Concept of Operation.

a. Hazard mitigation teams are established in each of the 10 Federal regions. USACE represents the Secretary of the Army on the HMT. A FEMA representative normally serves as the team leader.

b. The most significant role of the HMT is to provide advice and recommendations based on observations and analysis during the 15-day period following the Major Disaster Declaration by the President. This role is distinct from many others in that the team neither provides emergency relief nor makes binding decisions on recovery activities. The main objective is to identify opportunities to minimize future Federal expenditures for disaster recovery operations.

c. The HMT has the responsibility to prepare a Hazard Mitigation Report within 15 days of a presidentially declared disaster. In extraordinary circumstances involving large scale, major disasters, the FEMA Regional Director (RD) may determine that a preliminary Hazard Mitigation Report will be submitted within 15 days followed by a more detailed report within 30 days from the Presidentially declared disaster. In accomplishing this task, the HMT conducts the operation in the following phases:

(1) Receives briefing on the disaster from the NWS, USACE, FEMA, local interests, and any other agencies that have pertinent information that would be beneficial to the team.

(2) Visit as much of the disaster area as possible in one or two days. If the area is too large to visit in this time frame, visit representative samples of each type flood damage.

(3) Each team member should watch for areas in which flood damages can be reduced or prevented by either structural or nonstructural measures. Team members should be aware that they can make suggestions that may be a local responsibility or other Federal or State agency responsibility to implement.

(4) The team should discuss all recommendations made by each team member, decide if it is a viable recommendation, and if so, then decide who will write the issue in the HMT Report.

(5) After recommendations are written, they should be reviewed, edited, and agreed upon by the team and then combined to form the HMT Report.

(6) The report is required to be written within 15 days following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

(7) After completion of the report, USACE should recommend that FEMA meet with local officials and discuss recommendations in the report since many of the recommendations are normally local interest responsibilities.

(8) FEMA is responsible for distribution of the report to all involved agencies and to concerned congressional interests.

8-4. Procedures.

a. Representative. The HMT representative will serve as the MSC's primary member on the regional HMT within its Civil Works boundaries.

b. Participation. After a flood disaster, when the FEMA RD activates the HMT (or a portion thereof), the RD will designate the team leader, and notify the team members. The USACE representative will attend all meetings and respond to the HMT requirements. Where more than one MSC is affected within a disaster area, MSC commanders will mutually agree upon a lead USACE representative. The MSC(s) not providing the lead USACE representative may participate in the HMT to assist the lead USACE representative with the overall USACE coordination. The lead USACE representative is responsible for coordination of all activities and recommendations with the appropriate districts and MSC's. MSC's will notify HQUSACE (CECW-OE) of any USACE participation in HMT activities.

c. Responsibilities. The USACE HMT representative will ensure that:

(1) The HMT is provided with information about USACE programs, the availability of funds from USACE authorities, status of ongoing projects, previously published studies, hydrological information, and damage assessment.

(2) USACE expertise is used in identifying mitigation opportunities and coordinate with affected districts.

(3) The HMT is provided with the USACE evaluation of mitigation alternatives and recommendations.

(4) Liaison between the HMT and USACE is constantly maintained before, during, and after field activities.

d. Activities. The USACE representative will be knowledgeable in the following activities:

- (1) Civil Works programs.
- (2) USACE regulations and authorities.
- (3) Completed and ongoing Civil Works projects and studies.
- (4) Regulatory and permit requirements and activities.
- (5) PL 84-99 activities.
- (6) General knowledge of other agency programs.

e. Information and Data. The USACE representative will be prepared to provide the HMT with the information or data that are currently available in MSC or district offices. Examples are:

- (1) Flood frequency analyses.
- (2) Aerial photographs.
- (3) Mapping.
- (4) Damage assessments.
- (5) Economic data.
- (6) Flood inundation maps.

f. USACE Comments. MSC commanders will provide to FEMA, within 20 days of receipt of the Hazard Mitigation Report (also known as the 15-day report), comments to the recommendations made by the Hazard Mitigation Report. A copy of these comments, along with a copy of the Hazard Mitigation Report will be forwarded to HQUSACE, ATTN: CECW-OE. The USACE comments will provide FEMA with:

- (1) Technical corrections to the Hazard Mitigation Report;
- (2) Any nonconcurrence to the recommendations of the Hazard Mitigation Report; and,
- (3) A schedule to accomplish the recommendations for which USACE is assigned the lead and USACE concurs. The schedule will be in tabular forms showing recommendations, proposed schedule, current status, and remarks columns.

g. USACE 90 Day Status Report. MSC commanders will provide, within 90 days of receipt of the Hazard Mitigation Report, input to the FEMA Post Flood Recovery Progress Report. The Status Report will be prepared and submitted by MSC's providing FEMA with:

(1) A status of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Hazard Mitigation Report.

(2) A description of problems or issues that have developed after completion of the report.

(3) Recommendations for further actions.

h. District Commanders will:

(1) Be prepared to support MSC's with HMT requirements.

(2) Ensure the recommendations of the Hazard Mitigation Report are implemented in accordance with MSC authorities and schedule.

(3) Provide the MSC with comments, input to the Hazard Mitigation Reports, and input to the Status Reports.

i. USACE Costs. All costs for HMT activities will be maintained by MSC's. USACE-funded costs will be limited to:

(1) Travel and per diem.

(2) Regular and overtime labor for MSC and district personnel. This does not include regular labor for General Expense-funded personnel.

(3) Reproduction costs for pertinent HMT reports. USACE will not be responsible for funding the complete HMT report.

8-5. Funding. HMT activities are funded under Class 610. Refer to ER 11-1-320 for funding procedures. Fiscal closeout of Class 610 activities will occur within 60 days of completion of travel for HMT activities.

EP 500-1-1
30 Sep 01

This page intentionally left blank.